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DDI #2393-82  
31 March 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Members and Observers of The National  
Foreign Intelligence Board

FROM : Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Decision on Warning Working Group Report

1. Your counsel at the NFIB meeting of 19 January when we discussed the Warning Working Group report was both valuable and appreciated. The national intelligence warning function is a fundamental responsibility of the Director of Central Intelligence and I have taken care to seek a broad range of counsel on the warning issues.

2. Drawing upon the working group report for a frame of reference, I have made the following decisions:

a. The national intelligence warning system will draw upon the separate warning activities in the Intelligence Community, supplementing them as necessary from resources under DCI control, to meet the DCI responsibilities for warning.

b. The warning mission will be based upon the definition in DCID 1/5: "...to avoid surprise to the President, the NSC, and the Armed Forces of the United States by foreign events of major importance..." That mission and definition will be expanded to ensure attention to slower developing, long-term intelligence problems.

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c. The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence will continue to oversee the national warning system and will exercise this authority with the advice of the National Foreign Intelligence Board.

d. The direct operating responsibility for the national warning system will rest with the Chairman, National Intelligence Council. He will be assisted in these duties by the National Intelligence Officers and a warning staff.

e. The Warning Working Group has been a useful device to provide maximum visibility of the national warning system to the Intelligence Community and to facilitate participation by the separate warning elements. I request your continuing support of the working group.

3. The Chairman, National Intelligence Council, will work with you, largely through the Warning Working Group, to implement these decisions.

William J. Casey